

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK MET AT THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 WITH MAYOR JOYCE SPRATT, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS CHARLES CEPHAS, PARKER DURHAM, CHRISTOPHER ADAMS; TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON, AND CLERK/TREASURER KATHLEEN CLOUGH. COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL NORDSTROM HAD AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.

MAYOR SPRATT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M., FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION.

MAYOR SPRATT CALLED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER COUNCILMAN BILL MILLS, WHO SERVED AS COUNCIL MEMBER FOR TWENTY YEARS.

TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON ADVISED THAT INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2011-4 BE TABLED UNTIL THE FULL COUNCIL IS PRESENT.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

1. MONROE QUAILES WITHDREW HIS AGENDA REQUEST.
2. UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS, THE COUNCIL VOTED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE AN AGENDA REQUEST SUBMITTED BY CEDRIC TURNER. THE COUNCIL VOTED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS, THE COUNCIL VOTED TO UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 2011.

MAYOR'S REPORT: MAYOR SPRATT SPOKE OF FORMER COUNCILMAN BILL MILLS SAYING THAT HE HAD PASSED AWAY LAST SATURDAY. HE TOUCHED A LOT OF LIVES IN HURLOCK. THE MAYOR PRESENTED A PROCLAMATION TO HIM IN HIS LAST HOURS AND IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE FAMILY AT A LATER TIME.

SATURDAY THE MAYOR WILL BE TRAVELING TO NEW YORK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GERMAN-AMERICAN DELEGATION PARADE ON 5TH AVENUE, FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST IN CENTRAL PARK.

OFFICER JOHNNY BEAZLEY WAS SELECTED TO REPRESENT HURLOCK IN THE 9-11 EVENT AT THE RAVENS' GAME, AND HE WAS THE ONE WHO CARRIED THE AMERICAN FLAG. NEW POLICE CARS WILL BE ON THE ROAD IN A FEW WEEKS.

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICER JOHN AVERY REPORTED THAT THE GRASS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND WITH THE FORECLOSED PROPERTIES. THE TOWN HAS BEEN CUTTING IT. HE ASKED RESIDENTS TO PLEASE MAKE SURE THE LAWN MOWER THROWS THE GRASS BACK ON THE PROPERTY, NOT IN THE STREET, AS IT IS CLOGGING UP THE SEWER DRAINS.

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THE MAYOR AGAIN BROUGHT UP THE NEED, BY MANDATE OF THE CHARTER, TO APPOINT A PERSON TO THE DISTRICT 1 SEAT VACATED BY FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL HENRY.

"COUNCIL IS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN CHARTER ARTICLE III. THE COUNCIL, § 307. VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL, TO APPOINT A NEW COUNCIL MEMBER TO REPLACE THE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT 1.

ARTICLE III THE COUNCIL § 307. VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL FOR ANY REASON, THE COUNCIL, BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, SHALL APPOINT SOME PERSON, QUALIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 302, TO FILL SUCH VACANCY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM."

THE MAYOR EXPLAINED THAT IF THE COUNCIL CANNOT COMPROMISE AND COME TO A UNANIMOUS VOTE, THERE IS NOTHING IN THE CHARTER TO PUT THE SEAT ON THE BALLOT IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. THE COUNCIL HAS THE LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABIDE BY THE CHARTER. COUNCIL PRESIDENT CEPHAS ASKED TOWN ATTORNEY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE COUNCIL COULD NOT COME TO A UNANIMOUS DECISION REGARDING A CANDIDATE. MR. VINSON SAID IF THEY DON'T THEY COULD HAVE VOTES THAT ARE TWO TO TWO AND NO PROGRESS COULD BE MADE.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE RICK PRICE REPORTED THAT THERE WAS ONE DEATH IN CAMBRIDGE DUE TO HURRICANE IRENE. WHEN CAMBRIDGE LOST POWER, A GENTLEMAN WHO WAS ON OXYGEN DIED. HE REPORTED THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE NORTH END OF THE COUNTY, WHICH INCLUDES THE TOWN OF HURLOCK. COUNCILMAN PRICE ADVISED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL THAT THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CODE OF ETHICS; THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE COMMENT AND THE COUNTY IS WAITING TO HEAR BACK ON THE STATE'S REVIEW.

COUNTY COUNCILMAN PRICE FURTHER STATED THAT "CLEAN & LEAN" – A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO CLEAN UP THE COUNTY – WAS KILLED DUE TO THE FINANCIAL BURDEN. INSTEAD THERE WILL BE A POLICY TO NOTIFY PROPERTY OWNERS OF THEIR INFRACTIONS. THE STATE IS COMING NEXT WEEK TO EXPLAIN "PLAN MARYLAND." AT 6:00 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 IN ROOM 110 THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CRITICAL AREAS TO HEAR CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC.

ON OCTOBER 4, 2011 THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE BURNING BAN. AND ON OCTOBER 11, 2011, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE RESTORATION OF FOUR (\$4M) MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE HIGHWAY USER REVENUES. THE TOWN OF HURLOCK CAN HAVE INPUT. THE COUNTY COUNCIL IS JOINING WITH CAROLINE COUNTY TO GET THE DOVER BRIDGE DONE; PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING TWELVE (12) YEARS.

COUNCILMAN PRICE REPORTED THAT HE SPOKE WITH THE COUNCIL REGARDING TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM'S INQUIRY ABOUT THE EXCISE TAX, AND HAVE A JOINT MEETING WITH THE

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COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE TOWN OF HURLOCK COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN PRICE REPORTED THAT THE COUNCIL FELT THERE WASN'T THE REVENUE TO VISIT IT THIS YEAR AS THE BUDGET HAS BEEN SET, AND IT CAN'T CHANGE AT THIS TIME, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL DECIDED THEY WOULD NOT SCHEDULE A JOINT MEETING AT THIS TIME REGARDING THIS ISSUE.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CEPHAS ASKED REPRESENTATIVE PRICE IF THE COUNTY WILL BE IN COMPLIANCE FOR THE ETHICS ORDINANCE BY THE DUE DATE OF OCTOBER, TO WHICH MR. PRICE RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COUNCIL PRESIDENT CEPHAS STATED THAT DORCHESTER COUNTY HAS THE THIRD HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE AND ASKED IF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THEY ARE GOING TO GET AGGRESSIVE IN GETTING BUSINESSES AND JOBS TO THE COUNTY. HE FURTHER SAID THAT THE MUNICIPALITY IS PART OF THE COUNTY AND THE COUNCIL SHOULD MEET WITH THE HURLOCK TOWN COUNCIL; PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE JOBS, THEY HAVE NO HOPE; YOU GET CRIME.

MAYOR SPRATT EXPRESSED HER FRUSTRATION WITH THE EVENTS DURING HURRICANE IRENE; SAYING SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BEG TO GET A SHELTER WHEN WE HAVE A SCHOOL RIGHT HERE, AND THERE IS NO PLAN TO GET RESIDENTS FROM THE UPPER END OF THE COUNTY TO MACES LANE SCHOOL IN CAMBRIDGE.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CEPHAS SAID THE COUNTY HAS A DUTY TO MAKE SURE MUNICIPALITIES IN OUTLYING AREAS ARE TREATED FAIRLY. HE STATED THAT IF THE COUNTY HAS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IT SHOULD BE AGGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY AND GET BUSINESSES INTO DORCHESTER COUNTY. HE TOLD COUNTY COUNCILMAN PRICE "I ADMIRE THE JOB YOU ARE DOING, AND YOU KEEP DOING IT; BUT YOU'RE JUST ONE PERSON. KEEP FIGHTING FOR US."

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICER AND CODE ENFORCER JOHN AVERY SAID THERE WAS FLOODING ON JACKSON STREET LAST WEEK FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRENE; IT IS A DRAINAGE ISSUE. PART OF IT THE TOWN FIXED, BUT 150 FEET OF THE ROAD IS TERRIBLE. HE ASKED THAT THE COUNTY PUT IT ON THEIR AGENDA TO REPAIR IT THIS YEAR.

MR. AVERY RESPONDED TO COMMENTS ABOUT BRINGING BUSINESSES AND JOBS TO THE AREA, REPORTING THAT SUBWAY IS COMING TO THE END OF THE PLANNING STAGE AND IS READY TO GO FORWARD. THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST OF A SUBDIVISION OF THREE LOTS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS GOING ON, BUT UNTIL WE HAVE ISSUED BUILDING PERMITS WE ARE NOT PUTTING OUT THAT INFORMATION.

REVEREND PAUL SAID THAT IT WAS GRATIFYING THAT DURING HURRICANE IRENE THE RESIDENTS SAW MAYOR SPRATT AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SOME COUNCIL MEMBERS DRIVING AROUND TO MAKE SURE WE WERE SAFE AND CARED FOR AND IS APPRECIATED. HE SHARED THAT THERE ARE NOT MANY TOWNS THAT DO THAT AND WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE CARING OFFICIALS.

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REVEREND McGRATH ROSE TO SPEAK, STATING HE WAS BORN IN 1928 WHEN HURLOCK HAD EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT. AND WHEN HE CAME BACK HERE ALL HE SAW WAS REGRESS. HE STATED "IN THE LAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN MORE PROGRESS THAN WE HAVE HAD IN YEARS. AND YOU COMPLAIN. IF YOU WANT SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP SOMETHING."

HE SAID "HURRICANES, TORNADOS, STORMS, WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A TOWN ALERT SYSTEM FOR EACH DISTRICT – THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS CAN'T DO IT ALL - SET UP AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL ON CALL RIGHT HERE IN TOWN HALL AND HELP OTHERS."

REVEREND McGRATH SAID THAT "PEOPLE TALK ABOUT WANTING BUSINESSES. FEDERALSBURG HAS NOW OUTGROWN HURLOCK. THE TOWN CAN'T FIX ALL THE ROADS WHEN TRACTORS ARE TEARING THEM UP. A SERVICE STATION, McDONALDS, CHICK FILET; GET THREE PEOPLE AND A LITTLE BIT OF MONEY AND GET A FRANCHISE. STOP BEGGING." HE ADMONISHED THE COUNCIL FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO GET TOGETHER, AND THAT THERE IS ALWAYS A NAY VOTE. AFTER HIS COMMENTS, THE PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE APPLAUDED WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.

FOLLOWING HIS REMARKS, MAYOR SPRATT ANNOUNCED THAT THE GROCERY STORE HAS BEEN PURCHASED BY HARRY BATTELLE AND IT IS ALREADY LOOKING LIKE A NEW PLACE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE STORE AND TO THE PROPERTY. REVEREND McGRATH LEAD THE PEOPLE IN APPLAUSE FOR HIS EFFORTS.

AMOS JONES ASKED ABOUT PUTTING FOUR (4) APARTMENTS IN THE BAYLISS RESTAURANT ON MAIN STREET. MR. JOHN AVERY ASKED IF HE WANTED FOUR APARTMENTS IN ONE BUILDING; MR. JONES SAID YES. MR. AVERY SAID BY ORDINANCE THAT IS NOT ALLOWED. HE EXPLAINED THAT ONLY ONE APARTMENT IS ALLOWED PER 4,000 SQUARE FEET. THERE IS ONLY 5,000 SQUARE FEET AT THAT LOCATION. IN 2007 THERE WAS A PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTION DONE AND THERE WERE TWO PAGES OF DISCREPANCIES THAT HAVE TO BE CORRECTED, AND IT IS NOT TO BE INHABITED UNTIL THOSE ARE CORRECTED. THE LETTER WILL BE OUT THIS WEEK.

THE STREET SWEEPER IS BEING REPAIRED; THERE HAS BEEN NO MAINTENANCE DONE ON THIS IN MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS AND IT WAS COMPLETELY CLOGGED AND NEEDS NEW PARTS.

CEDRIC TURNER STATED THAT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT HE REQUESTED TWO MONTHS AGO. HOWEVER, WHEN THE CLERK-TREASURER ASKED HIM IF HE DID NOT RECEIVE THE WRITTEN MINUTES THE DAY HE CAME IN AND TWO DAYS LATER RECEIVED A NEW FLASH DRIVE WITH THE REQUESTED MINUTES, HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THEM FROM THE CLERK-TREASURER ON THE DAY SHE TOLD HIM THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE. MR. TURNER ARGUED THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE WHAT HE WANT; THE CLERK-TREASURER STATED HE WAS MISREPRESENTING THE FACTS AS HE WAS GIVEN PRECISELY WHAT HE REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS REQUEST, AND THAT THE CHARTER ALLOWS A CITIZEN TO COME IN TO LISTEN TO THE AUDIO, NOTHING ELSE NEED BE PROVIDED; SHE WENT

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ABOVE AND BEYOND TO ACCOMMODATE HIM, AND OFFERED TO HAVE HIM BRING IN HIS LAPTOP THE NEXT DAY AND SHE WOULD DOWNLOAD THE FILES FOR HIM.

IN RESPONSE TO REVEREND MCGRATHS REMARKS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT CEPHAS SAID THAT THE COUNCIL DOES NOT DISPUTE EVERYTHING. HE STATED "WHEN I SAY NAY I DO IT BECAUSE IT IS MY EXPERIENCE, MY RIGHT, AND IF YOU KNOW IT TO BE WRONG YOU CAN'T GO ALONG." HE SAID THAT HE IS IN TOUCH WITH THE CHICKEN FESTIVAL AND HOPES TO HAVE IT IN HURLOCK IN 2013; MOM AND POP BUSINESSES MAKE AMERICA GREAT. FORMER COUNCILMAN HENRY KNOWS THAT WHEN WE HAD THE MAIN STREET COMMITTEE WE HAD THE COMMUNITY LEGACY GRANT, WE TRIED TO BRING BUSINESSES. COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER DURHAM SAID THAT PEOPLE WERE NOT CALLED ABOUT THE IMPENDING STORM; RESIDENTS CAN ENROLL BY CALLING EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGEMENT AT 410-228-1818 TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT STREET ARE FLOODED. HE ALSO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT UNITY WASHINGTON SHOP IS OPEN ON SATURDAYS FOR INEXPENSIVE ITEMS AND THEY HAVE GOOD VOLUNTEERS. THEY TAKE DONATIONS ON SATURDAYS.

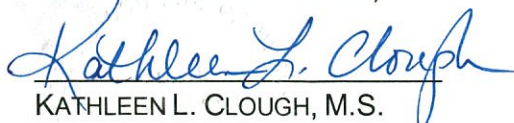
COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AGAIN ENCOURAGED RESIDENTS TO GET OUT AND ENJOY THEIR TOWN, CHECK ON NEIGHBORS, VOLUNTEER, SUPPORT YOUR TOWN, BUY LOCAL. HE SAID THAT HE DOES A LOT OF VOLUNTEER WORK WITH 4-H AND HE GETS A LOT OUT OF IT. "JUST CUT UP YOUR NEIGHBORS' LIMBS, VOTING, RUNNING FOR OFFICE, CHECKING ON YOUR NEIGHBORS, THAT IS VOLUNTEERING." HE SAID THAT HE DID WANT TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK MR. JOE SPRATT FOR ALL OF HIS VOLUNTEER WORK HE HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE TOWN. IT IS A LOT OF WORK AND PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE HOW HARD IT IS. TO GET OUT THERE, TAKE THE INITIATIVE, AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO IMPROVE THE TOWN, IT'S A GREAT TOWN. SO THANK YOU FOR THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT."

PLANNING OFFICER JOHN AVERY REPORTED THAT THE STORM CLEAN-UP REQUIRED 130 MAN HOURS, TWO MEN AT 65 HOURS EACH ON CLEAN-UP, TREE LIMBS, AND THE DISPOSAL WAS NOT FREE; THE COUNTY WOULD NOT GIVE ON THAT AT ALL. IT WAS \$55.00 A TON – THE TOWN PAID \$900.00. MOST PEOPLE WERE PATIENT; SOME WERE NOT. IF IT TOOK A LITTLE WHILE TO GET TO YOU – THAT'S WHY. PIECES NEED TO BE 4 TO 5 FEET – SOME WERE 12 FEET AND THEY WON'T FIT IN THE TRUCK.

MR. DAVID WANDS ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY PROGRESS ON THE FIRE HYDRANT GRANT. HE WAS ADVISED THAT THE APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS IS STILL IN THE WORKS.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


KATHLEEN L. CLOUGH, M.S.
CLERK-TREASURER

SEPTEMBER 26, 2011
DATE